



Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

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AGENDA DATE: March 7, 2007

TO: Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

FROM: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director,
City of Santa Barbara
Claude Garciacelay, Park Planner, County of Santa Barbara
Kerry Kellogg, Recreation Specialist, Los Padres National Forest

SUBJECT: Proposed Task Force 2007 Work Plan and Topic Schedule – For Action

RECOMMENDATION: That the FCT Multi-jurisdictional Task Force:

- A. Receive a presentation from staff on the proposed Task Force Work Plan and Topic Schedule for 2007; and
- B. Approve the Work Plan and Topic Schedule.

DISCUSSION:

Introduction

The purpose of this work plan is to outline how the Task Force will move forward with addressing trail use, management, and policy issues for the front county trails, and provide a public forum to solicit input from the public, trail user groups, property owners, and community organizations. The proposed meeting topic schedule for 2007 (attached) outlines the topic areas for each meeting. As the Task Force addresses issues through 2007 and into 2008, it is anticipated that the meeting topic schedule will be updated as needed.

The following work plan is broadly organized according to the areas of focus and key objectives in the Task Force adopted Statement of Purpose. Specific areas of focus include use policies, governance and management, trail maintenance, and long term planning for the development of a Multi-jurisdictional Front Country Trails Master Plan. The five key objectives provide the framework for the work plan. It is anticipated that as the Task Force continues its work, the work plan may be updated and refined.

Key Objective 1: Review and evaluate existing policy, current conditions, and funding related to use, maintenance, and resource protection. The first objective addresses the baseline information needed to begin assessing options and developing recommendations. During the review of current conditions the Task Force may find that there are short-term implementation strategies (such as the development of new signage) that can move forward in the interim. Key topics for discussion include:

- **Current Conditions**
 - Trail Conditions
 - Trail Maintenance
 - Role of volunteer user groups in trail maintenance
- **User Education**
 - Signage, web materials, maps, bell program, trail hosts
 - Role of volunteer groups in user education
- **Existing Trail Use, Maintenance, Easement Acquisition Policy**
 - National Forest Management Plan
 - City of Santa Barbara Trail Policies
 - County of Santa Barbara Parks Recreation and Trails Policies
 - Use Permits and Business license requirements for commercial use of the trails
- **Resource Protection: Local, state and federal laws and regulations related to the protection and enhancement of:**
 - Cultural Resources
 - Riparian Resources
 - Chaparral/Wildland Habitat
 - Water Quality
- **Funding – Operating and Capital**
 - Los Padres National Forest
 - City of Santa Barbara
 - County of Santa Barbara
 - Role of user groups in funding trail maintenance and user education

Key Objective 2: Review and evaluate recommendations developed by the Front Country Trails Working Group (FCTWG) and the Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA) related to use, maintenance and resource protection.

- Review and evaluate recommendations for short-term implementation
- Review and evaluate long-term recommendations for the development of a trails master plan

Key Objective 3: Review and evaluate information from other public entities regarding innovative approaches to resolving multi-use conflicts, maintenance, planning and funding.

- Details regarding other public entities that would provide valuable case studies will be forthcoming.

Key Objective 4: Hold public meetings to gather input on issues, options, and priorities related to Front Country Trails from trail users, community organizations, interest groups, property owners and members of the public.

- **Trail User Group Presentations:** Over the course of three to four months, trail user groups will be invited to make presentations to the Task Force to outline their purpose, use of the trails, contributions to trail maintenance and user education, and willingness to assist in the assessment and implementation of trail management strategies.
- **Ongoing public hearings:** To provide the public, including trail users, community members, interest groups, and property owners, with the opportunity to provide input to the Task Force as it considers specific recommendations

Key Objective 5: Develop and forward policy, maintenance, management, planning and funding recommendations to the respective commissions and governing bodies of the three jurisdictions.

- Policy Recommendations
- Trail Maintenance and Management Recommendations
- User Education Recommendations
- Funding Recommendations

Once the Task Force has reviewed existing conditions and constraints, current proposals, and examples from other public entities, it will begin formulating recommendations for consideration by the Santa Barbara City Council, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, and the National Forest Service. These recommendations would form the basis for the development of a Multi-jurisdictional Front Country Trails Master Plan.

ATTACHMENT: Topic Schedule

SUBMITTED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, City of Santa Barbara

2007

FRONT COUNTRY TRAILS MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL TASK FORCE MEETING TOPIC SCHEDULE

January 24	February 3	March 7	April 4	May 2	June 6
<u>Special Meeting</u> Elect Chair and Vice Chair Adopt Statement of Purpose Establish regular meeting schedule	<u>Special Work Session</u> Review of Jurisdictional Boundaries, Use Policy and Public Safety, Trail Maintenance, Forest Service Volunteers, Trail Advocacy Groups, Front Country Trails Working Group (FCTWG) recommendations, and Next Steps	<u>Regular Meeting</u> Follow-up to Worksession Proposed Work plan and Meeting Topic Schedule	<u>Regular Meeting</u> <u>Existing Conditions</u> Trail Conditions and Maintenance Current Funding <u>User Group Presentations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers - Los Padres Forest Association - Montecito Trails Foundation 	<u>Regular Meeting</u> <u>Existing Conditions</u> User Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage - Informational Materials, Bike Bells, Trail Hosts <u>User Group Presentations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Santa Barbara Trails Council - Santa Barbara New Trails Committee - Multi-Use Trails Coalition - Trails Alliance 	<u>Regular Meeting</u> <u>Existing Conditions</u> Trail Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use, Maintenance, Easement Acquisition Policy - Permits <u>User Group Presentations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sierra Club - Santa Barbara Trail Riders - Los Padres Trail Riders - County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Council
July 11*	August 8*	September 5	October 3	November 7	December 5
<u>Regular Meeting</u> <u>Existing Conditions</u> Resource Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural Resources - Riparian Resources - Wildland Protection - Water Quality TBD: View the movie <i>Klunkers</i>	<u>Regular Meeting</u> <u>Review Recommendations and other Trails Policies/Plans</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Front Country Trails Working Group (FCTWG) - Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA) - Policies/Plans from other areas 	<u>Regular Meeting</u> <u>Review Recommendations and other Trails Policies/Plans</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New local proposals from other trail user groups, members of public, private landowners - Policies/Plans from other areas 	<u>Regular Meeting</u> <u>Draft Recommendations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trail Use Policy - Trail Maintenance and Management - User Education - Funding 	<u>Regular Meeting</u> <u>Draft Recommendations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trail Use Policy - Trail Maintenance and Management - User Education - Funding 	<u>Regular Meeting</u> <u>Finalize Recommendations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trail Use Policy - Trail Maintenance and Management - User Education - Funding

* Note meeting in July has been rescheduled to the 11th. August meeting is proposed for the 8th instead of the 1st to allow for a four week break between meetings.